

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Commonwealth Governor's
School Calendar 2006-07

ITEM NO: 4B

PREPARED BY: Jean S. Murray, Superintendent

MEETING: November 15, 2005

ACTION DATE: NA

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:

That the School Board discuss the Commonwealth Governor's School instructional calendar for 2006-2007, and provide guidance.

KEY POINTS:

- The Commonwealth Governor's School (CGS) operates on a Virginia State Charter between King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties.
- The CGS is organized as a community of learners with teachers and students participating in teaching and learning activities from five (5) different school sites.
- The CGS has a Governing Board composed of a School Board member from each county with the Superintendents as non-voting, ad hoc members. The chair and executive superintendent rotate annually. Mr. Sullivan is the Stafford County Public Schools' Board member
- An instruction committee with representatives from each county develops the admissions process, curriculum requirements, and instructional calendar.
- Beginning in 2005-2006, Spotsylvania County opened the school year before Labor Day. To accommodate the instructional calendar, the King George and Stafford County CGS students started their CGS instructional programs five (5) days early with transportation provided. The Spotsylvania 2006-2007 instructional calendar begins the school year eight (8) days earlier than King George and Stafford County.
- The Instructional Committee, School Advisory Committee, PTA Executive Board and Governing Board are discussing how to maintain the integrity of the CGS learning community and instructional program, while accommodating the differences in the counties' calendars. All bodies are expressing support of defining a compromised CGS calendar.
- The options discussed include: **a)** The CGS sites operate on the individual county calendars with King George and Stafford students starting eight (8) days later than Spotsylvania. The integrity of teaching and interacting between sites is lost with this option and the virtual component of the CGS program is compromised **b)** Spotsylvania CGS students start on their calendar and King George and Stafford CGS students start four (4) days earlier than their respective calendars, thus cutting the time gap in half. Spotsylvania CGS teachers and students would participate in non-core instructional activities for four (4) days until the other students started classes **c)** Spotsylvania CGS students start CGS classes four (4) days later than the start of their school calendar & King George & Stafford CGS students start CGS classes four (4) days earlier than the start of their school calendar. All CGS students would start their core curriculum at the same time and the integrity of the virtual teaching and learning environment across sites is preserved.

- Option C is not discussed in the attached letter from CGS Director, David Baker, but has been discussed extensively since the letter was received.
- Mr. Sullivan will lead a discussion on this item as requested by the Governing Board.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL: #1 Provide educational excellence through instruction that establishes high expectations for all students yet recognizes the unique needs of each learner.

FUNDING SOURCE: If necessary, transportation and CGS funds.

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: NA